

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1801.

LONDON, August 19.

A LETTER was yesterday sent to us, received through a respectable channel from Brunswick, via Holland, which speaks confidently of the capitulation of Alexandria in Egypt, six days after the surrender of Cairo. The Hamburg mail which became due this morning, may perhaps bring us some important information of this subject. Packet.

Mr. Merry, it is said, very lately received orders to press the French government to come to a more close and definite understanding, and to declare its admission or rejection of certain preliminary principles, and their distinct application to the basis of the treaty under contemplation.—The dispatches of this minister, which were anxiously expected, did not arrive till Monday, and they have proved so far satisfactory, that the negotiation which must have been instantly broken off by the perseverance of the court of France in the practices complained of will be continued, if it be not a more proper expression to say that it will commence. The whole that has passed has been but a negotiation for a negotiation, a treaty to treat. The public intercourse will now, it is said, assume a more real, if not a more interesting character, and it will be difficult for M. Talleyrand, whatever may be the ultimate views of his cabinet, to avoid the discussion of those terms and conditions upon which depends the consummation of peace.

Whatever those who are apt to be discouraged by every trifling failure may be disposed to say of gallant lord Nelson's expedition against Boulogne, that illustrious hero has lost nothing of his well earned glory and renown. Under the direction of this enterprising officer, our gallant tars, spurning at the empty gasconades of the enemy, hurl the British thunder on their coast, and dare to come forth. The French, however, think it prudent to keep their vessels chained to the shore.

It is stated in the German papers, that the chief consul has erased from the list of counsellors of state the name of admiral Gantheaume. He had sent the chief consul the minutes of a council of war held on the coast of Africa, at the distance of 120 leagues from Alexandria, it which it was decided that it would be inexpedient to disembark the troops, as the passage across the Desert could not have been effected without very great loss. But Buonaparte had sent the most positive orders to disembark, not only at the distance of 120 leagues from Alexandria, but from Egypt itself.

The ships Lady Jane Dundas, Bengal and Lady Burgess, lately arrived from Bengal, have now sent up all their packets to the East-India house. These contain a voluminous collection of records in every department, the increase of which is prodigious beyond example. The extent of territory over which we have now the dominion and management in Asia, produces various writings and statements applicable to circumstances, the whole of which are transmitted to the court of directors.

A private letter received by the lady Burgess, lately arrived from Bengal, informs us, that advice had been received at the presidency by a Danish ship, of the state of the Spanish settlement of Manilla.

It appears, that in consequence of some secret intelligence having been received by the governor from the Isle of France, the strong town of Cdvina had been doubly garrisoned; the castle and harbour had received several additional pieces of cannon. The Spaniards have also sent a considerable reinforcement to Samboaugun, and fortified the place. The confirmation created through all the Phillipine islands on the intelligence of the late expedition from India, was very great. The government are said to be much agitated at Manilla. Great discontents had prevailed with the militia, who are represented to be in the most wretched state possible. Five frigates are stated to be at Cdvita, but in no respect fit for sea. One frigate only has her lower masts in;—the others mere hulks. Don Allowas has the direction of all the gun boats, which amount to no more than nine. The governor's nephew has the command of the militia. The various goods in warehouses at Manilla, are said to amount to 14,000,000 of dollars. The gun boats carry one 32 pounder.

At the sales by auction, at London, on Monday, superfine American flour began at 44 shillings and ended at the reduced price of 37 shillings per barrel.

The harvest has commenced in the Fens and the crops were never known so fine or abundant. The agricultural reports of the counties of Lincoln, Rutland, Northampton, Leicester, Nottingham, Derby, Stafford, Warwick, Oxford, Berks and Sussex, state the crops of the present year to be nearly double the last year's produce.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Admiralty-Office, August 18.

Copy of a letter from lord Viscount Nelson, K. B. vice-admiral of the Red, &c. to Egan Nepean,

Esquire, dated on board the Medusa, off Boulogne, August 16, 1801.

SIR,

Having judged it proper to attempt bringing off the enemy's flotilla, moored in the front of Boulogne, I directed the attack to be made by four divisions of boats for boarding, under the command of captains Somerville, Cotgrave, Jones and Parker, and a division of howitzer boats under captain Conn: The boats put off from the Medusa at half past eleven o'clock last night in the best possible order, and before one o'clock this morning the firing began, and I had, from the judgment of the officers, and the zeal and gallantry of every man, the most perfect confidence of complete success, but the darkness of the night, with the tide and half tide, separated the divisions, and from all not arriving at the same happy moment with captain Parker, is to be attributed the failure of success; but I beg to be perfectly understood that not the smallest blame attaches itself to any person; for although the divisions did not arrive together, yet each (except the fourth division which could not be got up before day) made a successful attack on that part of the enemy they fell in with, and actually took possession of many brigs and flats, and cut their cables, but many of them being aground, and the moment of the battle's ceasing on board them, the vessels were filled with volleys upon volleys of musketry, the enemy being perfectly regardless of their own men, who must have suffered equally with us, it was therefore impossible to remain on board even to burn them; but allow me to say, who have seen much service this war, that more determined persevering courage I never witnessed, and that nothing but the impossibility of being successful, from the causes I have mentioned, could have prevented me from having to congratulate their lordships; but although in value the loss of such gallant and good men is incalculable, yet, in point of numbers, it has fallen short of my expectations. I must also beg leave to state, that greater zeal and ardent desire to distinguish themselves by an attack on the enemy was never shewn than by all the captains, officers, and crews of all the different descriptions of vessels under my command.

The commanders of the Hunter and Greyhound revenue cutters went in their boats in the most handsome and gallant manner to the attack. Among the many brave men wounded, I have with the deepest regret to place the name of my gallant good friend and able assistant captain Edward T. Parker; also my flag-lieutenant Frederick Langford, who has served with me many years; they were both wounded in attempting to board the French commodore. To captain Gore of the Medusa I feel the highest obligations; and when their lordships look at the loss of the Medusa on this occasion, they will agree with me, that the honour of my flag and the cause of their King and country, could never have been placed in more gallant hands. Captain Bedford of the Leyden, with captain Gore, very handsomely volunteered their services to serve under a master and commander; but I did not think it fair to the latter, and I only mention it to mark the zeal of those officers. From the nature of the attack only a few prisoners were made; a lieutenant, eight seamen, and eight soldiers, are all they brought off. Herewith I send the reports of the several commanders of divisions, and a return of killed and wounded.

I have the honour to be, &c.

NELSON & BRONTE.

P. S. Captain Somerville was the senior master and commander employed.

Eugenie, off Boulogne, August 16, 1801.

My Lord,

In obedience to your lordship's direction to state the proceedings of the first division of boats which you did me the honour to place under my command, for the purpose of attacking the enemy's flotilla in the bay of Boulogne, I beg leave to acquaint you, that after leaving the Medusa last night, I found myself, on getting on shore, carried considerably, by the rapidity of the tide, to the eastward of the above mentioned place; and finding that I was not likely to reach it in the order prescribed, I gave directions for the boats to cast each other off. By so doing I was enabled to get to the enemy's flotilla a little before the dawn of day, and in the best order possible attacked, close to the pier head, a brig, which, after a sharp contest, I carried. Previous to so doing, her cables were cut, but I was prevented from towing her out by her being secured with a chain, and in consequence of a very heavy fire of musketry and grape shot that was directed at us from the shore, 3 luggers, and another brig within half pistol shot; and not seeing the least prospect of being able to get her off, I was obliged to abandon her, and push off of the bay; as it was then completely day-light

The undaunted and resolute behaviour of the officers, seamen and marines, was unparalleled; and I have to lament the loss of several of those brave men, a list of whom I enclose you herewith.

I have the honour to be, &c.

P. SOMERVILLE.

Lord Viscount Nelson, K. B. vice-admiral of the Blue, &c. &c.

Medusa, off Boulogne, August 16, 1801.

My Lord,

After the complete arrangement which was made, the perfect good understanding and the regularity with which the boats you did me the honour to put under my command left the Medusa, I have an anxious feeling to explain to your lordship the failure of our enterprise, that, on its outlet, promised every success.

Agreeable to your lordship's instructions, I proceeded with the second division of the boats under my direction (the half of which were under the direction of lieutenant Williams, senior of the Medusa) to attack the part of the enemy's flotilla, appointed for me, and at half past twelve had the good fortune to find myself close to them, when I ordered lieutenant Williams, with his subdivision, to push on to attack the vessels to the northward of me, while I, with the others, run alongside a large brig off the mole head, wearing the commodore's pendant. It is at this moment I feel myself at a loss for words, to do justice to the officers and crew of the Medusa who were in the boat with me, and to lieutenant Langford, the officers and crew of the same ship, who nobly seconded us in the barge, until all her crew were killed or wounded; and to the honourable Mr. Cathcart who commanded the Medusa's cutter, and sustained the attack with the greatest intrepidity, until the desperate situation I was left in obliged me to call him to the assistance of the sufferers in my boat.

The boats were no sooner alongside than we attempted to board; but a very strong netting, traced up to her lower yards, baffled all our endeavours, and a very brisk discharge of her guns and small arms, from about 200 soldiers on her gunwale, knocked myself, Mr. Kirby, the master of the Medusa, and Mr. Gore, a midshipman, with two thirds of the crew, upon our backs into the boat, all either killed or wounded desperately, the barque and cutter being on the outside, sheered off with the tide, but the flat boat in which I was, hung alongside, and as there was not an officer or man left to govern her, must have fallen into the hands of the enemy, had not Mr. Cathcart taken her in tow, and carried her off.

Mr. Williams led his subdivision up to the enemy with the most intrepid gallantry, took one lugger, and attacked a brig, while his crews I am concerned to say, suffered equally with ourselves, nearly the whole of his boat's crew were killed or wounded, lieutenant Pelley, who commanded the Medusa's launch, and the honourable Mr. Maitland, midshipman, were severely wounded; and Mr. William Britton, master's mate, in the Medusa's cutter, under lieutenant Stewart, was killed.

I now feel it my duty to assure your lordship, that nothing could surpass the zeal, courage and readiness of every description of officer and man under my command; and I am sorry that my words fall short of their merits, though we could not accomplish the objects we were ordered to.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD T. PARKER.

Lord Viscount Nelson, vice-admiral of the Blue, commander in chief, &c. &c.

Ganhet, Aug. 16, 1801.

My Lord,

On the night of the 15th inst. the third division of boats which I had the honour to command; assembled on board his majesty's ship York, agreeable to your lordship's directions, and at eleven P. M. by signal from the Medusa proceeded without loss of time, to attack the enemy's flotilla off Boulogne, as directed by your lordship; and as I thought it most advisable to endeavour to reduce the largest vessel first, I lost no time in making the attack; but in consequence of my leading the division, and the enemy opening a heavy fire from several batteries thought it advisable to give the enemy as little time as possible, cut the tow rope, and did not wait for the other boats, so that it was some time before the heavy boats could get up; received so many shots through the boat's bottom, that I found her in a sinking state, and as it was not possible to stop so many shot holes, was obliged with the men, to take to another boat, and have the pleasure to acquaint your lordship, that the